

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 14 are independent claims. Claims 26-33 were previously withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Figures 2 and 4A through 4E, and at page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 2, and page 9, line 20 to page 10, line 4 of the specification.

Applicants request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,800,350 issued to Van Hal, *et al.* ("Van Hal"), and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,791,256 issued to Nishizawa, *et al.* ("Nishizawa").

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the reference or references, when combined, must disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. The motivation to modify the prior art and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based upon a patent applicant's disclosure. See *in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 1 must be withdrawn because Van Hal in view of Nishizawa fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature of independent claim 1. Specifically, claim 1, as amended recites, *inter alia*:

a transparent moisture-absorbing layer comprising a porous material layer coated directly on the internal surface of the front substrate, the porous material layer comprising a transparent material adapted to transmit light emitted by the organic electroluminescent portion to the front substrate and to absorb moisture and to remain transparent even after absorption of moisture, and

Van Hal fails to teach or suggest at least such features. Nishizawa fails to cure the deficiencies of Van Hal. Therefore, Van Hal in view of Nishizawa fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Claims 1-5, 8-17, and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,803,127 issued to Su, *et al.* ("Su"), Nishizawa, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,321,102 issued to Loy, *et al.* ("Loy").

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 1 must be withdrawn because Su in view of Nishizawa and Loy fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature of independent claim 1. Specifically, claim 1, as amended recites, *inter alia*:

a transparent moisture-absorbing layer comprising a porous material layer coated directly on the internal surface of the front substrate, the porous material layer comprising a transparent material adapted to transmit light emitted by the organic electroluminescent portion to the front substrate and to absorb moisture and to remain transparent even after absorption of moisture

Su fails to teach or suggest at least such features. Nishizawa and Loy fail to cure the deficiencies of Su. Therefore, Su in view of Nishizawa and Loy fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature as recited in amended claim 1.

For similar reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Su in view Nishizawa and Loy fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed feature of amended claim 14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 14. Claims 2-13 and 15-25 depend from claims 1 and 14 and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 14, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Claims 6, 7, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Su, Nishizawa, Loy, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,762,553 issued to Yokogawa, *et al.* ("Yokogawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 7, 18, and 19 are allowable over Su in view of Nishizawa and Loy, and Yokogawa fails to cure the deficiencies of Su in view of Nishizawa and Loy as noted above with regard to claims 1 and 14. Hence, claims 6, 7, 18, and 19 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims 1 and 14.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 3, 2007

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